

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

SAM-01 OMB-01 /059 W

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R 300050Z JUL 75

FM AMCONSUL PORT MORESBY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 720

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT MORESBY 0730

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PGOV, PP

SUBJ: PAPUA BESENA ADVISOR ORDERED TO LEAVE PNG

REF: PORT MORESBY A-17

1. JULY 29 LOCAL PRESS REPORTS THAT DR. ERIC WRIGHT, AUSTRALIAN ADVISOR TO PAPUAN SEPARATIST LEADER JOSEPHINE ABAIJAH, AND MEMBER PORT MORESBY CITY COUNCIL, HAS BEEN GIVEN SIX WEEKS TO DEPART FROM PAPUA NEW GUINEA. THE DEPORTATION OF DR. WRIGHT IS THE FIRST ACTION TO BE TAKEN UNDER THE NEW AUTONOMOUS MIGRATION LAWS. DR. WRIGHT HAS THE RIGHT TO MAKE A PERSONAL APPEAL TO THE MINISTER FOR DEFENSE, FOREIGN RELATIONS AND TRADE, SIR MAORI KIKI (WHO ALSO ACTS AS MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR MIGRATION).

2. PRESS FOLLOW-UP ON JULY 30 REPORTS DECISION WAS ALLEGEDLY A SURPRISE TO CHIEF MINISTER SOMARE, AND FINANCE MINISTER CHAN, AND THAT CABINET APPROVAL FOR DECISION WAS NEITHER REQUIRED NOR SOUGHT. DR. WRIGHT INDICATED HE DID NOT INTEND TO APPEAL THE DECISION TO KIKI. MISS ABAIJAH REPORTEDLY

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STATED QUOTE PAPUA BESENA IS WINNING THAT'S WHY THEY ARE

DEPORTING HIM -- WHAT ELSE. BUT POWER IS NOT STATIC. THEY CAN DEPORT MY FRIENDS NOW BUT WHEN THE TIME COMES WE WILL DO WHAT WE LIKE. UNQUOTE.

3. COMMENT: EARLIER THIS YEAR KIKI INTRODUCED AN AMENDMENT TO THE MIGRATION ACT WHICH ALLOWS FOREIGN NATIONALS TO BE SUMMARILY DEPORTED. IT WAS RUMORED AT THE TIME THAT KIKI HAD PRESENTED THE LEGISLATION SPECIFICALLY TO REMOVE DR. WRIGHT, AMONG OTHERS, FROM THE PNG POLITICAL SCENE. IT IS WIDELY REPORTED THAT DR. WRIGHT AND JOSEPHINE ABAIJAH HAVE HAD A LONG STANDING LIAISON, AND THAT HE IS THE FATHER OF ONE OF HER CHILDREN. HE HAS BEEN HER LONG STANDING FINANCIAL SUPPORTER AND POLITICAL ADVISER, ALTHOUGH SHE NOW UNDOUBTEDLY IS A POLITICAL FORCE IN HER OWN RIGHT. HE ALLEGEDLY STILL PROVIDES CONSIDERABLE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR MISS ABAIJAH'S POLITICAL ACTIVITIES.

4. KIKI AS THE MOST RESPECTED PAPUAN IN THE MINISTRY, AND AS A STAUNCH SUPPORTER OF SOMARE AND PNG UNITY, HAS BEEN ABLE TO THWART PAPUA BESENA'S EFFORTS TO MAKE STRONG INROADS INTO THE GOVERNMENT BUREAUCRACY. NEVERTHELESS AS INDICATED IN REFAIR ABAIJAH PROBABLY COULD DEFEAT HIM, AND CERTAINLY WOULD ATTEMPT TO DO SO IN THE NEXT ELECTIONS FOR THE HOUSE. WHILE ABAIJAH REPRESENTS A PERSONAL THREAT TO KIKI'S POLITICAL FUTURE, AND WRIGHT'S DEPORTATION CAN BE CONSIDERED NARROWLY IN THAT VIEW, THE FACT IS THAT PAPUA BESENA IS ALSO A THREAT TO THE TRANQUILITY OF A UNITED PAPUA NEW GUINEA. BY DEPORTING WRIGHT, THE GOVERNMENT REMOVES AN IRRITANT AND VALUED SUPPORTER OF ABAIJAH, BUT IT DOES NOT REMOVE THE UNDERLYING CAUSES OF PAPUAN DISCONTENT. THE MOVE MAY ALSO BE CALCULATED TO PUT A NUMBER OF EXPATRIATES ON NOTICE HERE, THAT THE PNG GOVERNMENT NO LONGER FEELS RESTRAINED FROM USING DEPORTATION ORDERS TO ELIMINATE UNDUE EXPATRIATE MEDDLING IN THE POLITICAL ARENA.
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